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Dallas

# USDA Club News

U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S.A.

Vol. V \* No. 2      FEBRUARY, 1953      Dallas, Texas

## Meet Your New Boss      F.H.A. State Director Is

### Ezra Taft Benson

Ezra Taft Benson, 15th Secretary of Agriculture, is a farm leader of national repute, and a leading light in the councils of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Born in Whitney, Idaho, Mr. Benson attended Oneida State Academy, and Iowa State College, Utah State Agricultural College and Brigham Young University. He holds both a B.S. and M.S. Degree in Agricultural Economics, also doing graduate study at the University of California.

Springing from a practical farm family he has long been active in all phases of agriculture.

Mr. Benson takes an active interest in youth welfare work. A devout man, at the President's request, he opened the first Cabinet meeting with prayer.

### To All USDA Employees:-

As your President for 1953, I want to talk to you about your Club. The USDA Club is your club. You became a member when you became an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Your membership is free.

The USDA Club was organized--and exists--to do these things:-

Promote employee welfare; develop personal acquaintance; increase knowledge of the work of the Department; and interpret activities of the Department in order to give the best possible service to the public.

Everything the Club does is in your interest and in the interest of the Department. Tell us--the officers--if you do not like what we do. If you know of a problem which comes within the objective of the Club, write me a letter, or give me a call. Better still, tell us at our next meeting.

The regular meeting time for the Directors and Committee Chairmen is noon on the second Wednesday of each month. The place is the fifth floor of the Lowich Building, 912 South Ervay. Come to our next meeting March 11.

Cordially yours,

*Howard Martin*

President

### Speaker.

Reminding his PMA listeners that their new administrator, Howard Gordon, is no stranger to the Farmers Home family, Lester J. Cappleman, Texas State Director, the guest speaker at the January USDA Club Board of Directors meeting, lost no time getting down to cases regarding FHA's work in Texas. Quoting facts and figures indicating that FHA has done, and is doing a fine job, he nailed them down with a few case histories.

"Most FHA loans are slanted family-wise," he said. "We try to make neither the mistake of giving too little aid, nor too much; therefore, our borrowers are taught to draw up a farm plan and to stick to it."

(see page 2)



## FHA ADMINISTRATOR GETS BOOST FROM WASHINGTON STAR

In a speech last week Texas State Director L. J. Cappleman made this significant remark: "We in Farmers Home Administration," he said, "love our work. We feel that our work is worthwhile and worth doing!"

A story in the Washington Star February 10 points up further why Cappleman and other FHA employees can feel that way. Since it was created FHA has loaned \$2,676,000,000. It has collected back \$1,951,000,000 principal and \$263,196,000 interest for a total of \$2,214,196,000. As Mr. Cappleman and the Star pointed out, these farmer-borrowers couldn't get loans from regular credit sources. Finally, as the Star and "Cap" conclude, FHA couldn't have built up such a remarkable record without capable—even inspired—leadership. It all adds up to a pat on the back to FHA's soft-spoken, hardworking Dillard B. Lasseter, whose paternal interest in his FHA family is matched only by his desire that they do the job FHA was created to do to the best of their ability. We are happy to see this well-merited recognition extended to a USDA member-agency.

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## CHESTER H. KIRBERG PASSES AWAY

The USDA News regrets to report the death of Mr. Chester H. Kirberg, employed by FMA in the Compliance & Investigation Division. 19 years in the Federal Service—thirteen spent in USDA—Mr. Kirberg had been a resident of Dallas since 1946. He was named an alternate on the USDA Board of Directors last month.

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## JOHN B. HENRY JOINS FHA FIELD FORCE

John B. Henry recently assumed his new duties as FHA assistant Disaster loan supervisor in Baylor County with headquarters in Seymour. John B. as he is known to friends, recently acquired his B.S. degree from Texas A & M College. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November, 1942, and received his discharge in 1946. Returning to his old job in the Emergency Crop & Feed Loan office of F.C.A. He later transferred to Area Finance Office, F.H.A. when the two agencies were consolidated.

Taking advantage of the GI Training Bill he enrolled at Arlington State College for a course in Agricultural study later completing it at Texas A & M for his degree. John B. will make F.H.A. a top hand.

\* \* \* \* \*

Service to others is the "rent" you pay for the space you occupy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Of the more than 300,000 different kinds of plants on this earth man has learned to use only a few hundred.

\* \* \* \* \*

Did You Know...

There is no such fish as a sardine?....The name refers to a certain method of packing several varieties of small fish....

Every 24 hours your heart beats 103,689 times (count'em). This doesn't apply to Texas males with all those Texas special femilovelies around!

FHA STATE DIRECTOR SPEAKS....  
(from page 1)

Cappleman outlined the different types of loans available each covering a specific need and then paid tribute to the field men responsible for administering the program at the grass roots. Pausing to smile at O.H. Spung, "bossman" of Area 3 Finance Office, he said proudly, "There isn't a busted ex-farmer or broken-down banker in the bunch!"

As an example of FIA's remarkable collection record he cited a recent check of the Farm Ownership program which disclosed that losses on bad loans had totalled 22/100 of 1%.

"I don't believe the banks with all the collateral possible could better that very much," he concluded.

Cap's family roots go back to pioneer Fannin County stock. Although his father, only recently deceased, was a prominent physician, Cap decided to follow the land and majored in agriculture at A&M before joining the Resettlement Administration in 1934. Except for a short interlude in F&MA he has been with the same agency throughout, working up from County Supervisor to Assistant Regional Director then State Director when FHA reorganized on a state basis.



The USDA Club News is published monthly at 912 South Ervay, fifth floor Lowich Building. Send all news contributions to that address or telephone the editor, ST-5611, Ext. 2044. \*Please keep want-ads brief.

JAMES LEE (Jimmy) HYLES

EDITOR.

Fifty years ago this month the first agricultural demonstration took place on the Porter farm near Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas. Since that historic occasion the Extension Service has come of age.  
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Seventy years ago the Civil Service Merit System became a fact when President Chester Alan Arthur signed the Civil Service Act.  
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FHA is trusting for a loan of \$1000.00 a man whose first name is "Cheatum". (We'll bet he doesn't!)  
\*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

John E. Parsell, in the Federal service 33 years, has been promoted from Chief of Finance Division, FPA, National Office, to Assistant Administrator. Last year Mr. Parsell received a Superior Service Award for his work in fiscal affairs. Robert Schottler, his assistant, succeeds him in Finance.  
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Aside to TIMELY TEXAS TOPICS  
"Thanks, Fellows!

.....  
And to Westbrook Pegler for his swipe at government employees: "DEAR SIR: You cur"

LETTERS: (verse and worse!)

Dear sir:

In the USDA Club News  
I notice some interesting views,  
The Treasure r took in \$673.54  
And doesn't account for anything more.  
Although it states it spent \$710.49  
The Club had a balance of \$70.79  
I wish my books would come out so—  
For I would have a lot more dough.  
—A.NONY MOUS

Dear Anon: Although we're willing to concede that Lee Pierson, Dick Richardson, Virginia Johns, and all others responsible for getting, holding, and spending USDA Club funds last year were plenty good, we're not quite sure they're that good. We failed to mention that the treasury had a carryover of \$107.74 from 1951. Incidentally, A.Non, your meter looks and sounds familiar. (Yes, Evelyn?)  
\*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

Our PMA contemporary calls the editor's attention to a copy of a letter written by some PMA panjandrum in that Brooklyn outpost called New York City to another PMA "Big Shux" in Washington. We quote:

"TO: (deleted)

FROM: (ditto)

SUBJECT: Subversive propaganda, origin—Texas

I would like to call your attention to an enclosed publication entitled "Dallas US DA Club News". You will note that some scoundrel had the "gall" to encircle in "red lead" (how could you, John!) an article headlined "It's a Texas Fact". Were this article about the hugeness, dryness, or unworthiness of the state...I believe it would be of more interest to the intellectual type of person. However the article dwells on ... "women". It appears to have been written by some nearsighted, untravelled, unknowing introvert. Furthermore, our own officials, desirous of entertaining the menfolk of the organization, have felt that the mountain splendors of Colorado, the equine thoroughbreds of Kentucky more inviting than the "stunningly beautiful, ineffably sweet, NATURALLY LOVELY women of Texas....I believe this material is purely propaganda...Besides, any bird in a bush is better than all the Texas damsels, since they are so darn far a way."

Dear "Damyantee": You won't have any trouble finding that "bird" (this is it.) Any place outside Texas is "bush" league territory as far as real beauty is concerned. Your menfolk prefer mountains you say? Shucks, they ain't good for anything but to jump off of (we ain't hinting)...Watching "kaintuck equines" kick up their heels is poor entertainment. You come to Texas, one look at our Tex-adorables, YOU kick up YOUR heels! (TEXAS FACT!)

# U.S.D.A. Committee Members

(The two committees listed below were incomplete when the roster of Officers and committee members was published in the January issue.)

## EMPLOYEE WELFARE COMMITTEE

Russell A. Vernon, Chairman,	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street
Welton R. Fahl,	FHA	Texas State Office	405 Terminal Annex
Roy A. Hutchison,	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street
William Warefield,	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street

## CORRELATION & PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Ozelle Waller, Chairman	PMA	Information Service	1114 Commerce Street
Joseph L. Phillips	PMA	Area Personnel	816 Interurban Bldg.
Neva M. Russell	PMA	Administrative Services	1114 Commerce Street
Dorothy Melloy	PMA	Compliance & Investigation	3306 Main Street
Weldon W. Farmer	PMA	County Office	County Records Bldg.
John W. Poindexter	PMA	County Office	1104 S. Ervay Street
Vicki Sneed	PMA	Food Distribution Prog.	1114 Commerce Street
Corre B. Curtice	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street
Bill B. Williamson	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street
David M. Wells	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street
Anne M. Morrow	PMA	Commodity Office	1114 Commerce Street
John C. Brown	PMA	Dairy & Poultry Branch	572 Terminal Annex
John M. Quisenberry	FHA	Area Finance Office	912 S. Ervay Street
Beatrice J. Harrelson	FHA	Area Finance Office	912 S. Ervay Street
Edna Russ	FHA	Area Finance Office	912 S. Ervay Street
Wattle Davis	FHA	Area Examination	912 S. Ervay Street
Lawrence J. Fertsch	FHA	Area Finance Office	912 S. Ervay Street
James L. Hyles	FHA	Area Finance Office	912 S. Ervay Street
Charles Y. Holmes	FHA	State Office	405 Terminal Annex
Francis M. Pearl		Office of the Solicitor	401 Reserv Ln Lf Bldg

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### LET'S HAVE YOUR SUGGESTION!

How many people do you know who've been doing such a fine job in and out of USDA that they ought to be considered as Member-of-the-Month?

That's what Wendell Pickering, chairman of the Work of the Department Committee, wants to know.

With over 800 employees in the Department, says Pickering, "there surely must be several who can qualify for this honor."

Here are the main qualifications to consider in sending in nominations:

Outstanding work or service performed directly for, or on behalf of the USDA Club; outstanding work or service

(See adjoining column, please)

performed for USDA outside and above normal job requirements; or, outstanding community service which reflects favorably upon USDA.

Send a thumbnail sketch about your employee selection to Mr. Wendell Pickering, FHA Area Finance, 912 S. Ervay.

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### MR. TOKOLY NEW ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

Stephen Tokoly, PMA Compliance & Investigation employee, was elected an alternate Director of the USDA Club at the regular board meeting February 11.

Mr. Tokoly, who has been an employee of C & I since 1942, succeeds to the position made vacant by the death of Mr. Chester H. Kirberg, C&I employee who passed away February 6.